

Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Program

The Bell County Veterans Treatment Court relies on the cooperation and collaboration of many Veteran Service Organizations and community treatment agencies. The court also relies heavily on Peer Mentors from the Military Veterans Peer Network. Mentors are Veterans of the different Armed Forces branches who volunteer their time to assist the program participant throughout the court process. Their mission is to provide the participant support, encouragement, and assistance in navigating VA and local services. Peer Mentors are extensively trained and may have served in Vietnam, Desert Storm/ Shield, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. Depending upon need and if the participant requests, mentors are assigned to provide support and encouragement throughout their journey. For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Michael Jackson, Mentor Coordinator (information on back page of brochure).



Time & Location:

The Bell County Veterans Treatment Court is held at the Bell County Justice Center, County Court at Law #3, located at 1201 Huey Road in Belton, Texas 76513. It is presided by the Honorable Judge Rebecca DePew. The date and time that Veterans Treatment Court begins varies in conjunction with the Veterans' Tier Level and status within the program.

For Additional Information:

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Veterans Treatment Court Mentor

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Visit:

[www.bellcountytexas.com/
county_government/county_courts/
court_at_law_3/
veterans_treatment_court.php](http://www.bellcountytexas.com/county_government/county_courts/court_at_law_3/veterans_treatment_court.php)

Bell County Veterans Treatment Court



**Supporting Those
Who Have Served.**



What is the Bell County Veterans Treatment Court?

In 2009, the State of Texas—with bipartisan support during the 81st legislation—passed Senate Bill 1940, authorizing the creation of specialty courts for Veterans in Texas.

In March 2015, Bell County began a Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program in County Court at Law #3. This court program primarily serves pre- and post-adjudicated Veterans charged with various felony and misdemeanor offenses; there is also a shown nexus between the crime charged and the particular diagnoses of the Veteran.

The Bell County Veterans Treatment Court works collaboratively with the Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System and other Veteran Service Organizations to provide a program that utilizes evidence-based practices and assumes a holistic approach.

The Mission of the Bell County Veterans Treatment Court is to assist Veterans in getting back on track while simultaneously preventing recidivism. The program also strives to promote public safety and assist Veterans or current members of the United States Armed Forces through a collaborative, coordinated system of court supervised treatment that ensures accountability while empowering Veterans to become integral and productive members of our community.

Who is Eligible?

If you are a Veteran or Active Duty Military and would like to be considered for acceptance into the Veterans Treatment Court, ask your attorney to assist you in preparing an application. Applications may be found online as well as at the Pre-Trial Services Offices at the Bell County Justice Complex. Requirements for consideration include:

- ◆ You must be a Veteran or current member of the United States Armed Forces; this includes a member of the Reserves, National Guard, State Guard, or Coast Guard
- ◆ The crime charged is appropriate for the VTC
- ◆ A clinical diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), or mental health condition such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse, etc. that resulted from military service
- ◆ The above stated diagnosis (or dual diagnoses) materially affected the Military Member's criminal conduct for which they are being charged
- ◆ Willingness to work with all Bell County Veterans Treatment Court staff along with the individual's treatment team; it is important to note that this program is *a minimum of twelve months in duration and treatment must be completed throughout*

Successful completion of the Bell County Veterans Treatment Court may result in no jail time and/or the possibility of not having a charge on your criminal record.



The Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Court:

1. Bell County Veterans Treatment Court integrates alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing.
2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
3. Eligible participants are identified early and are promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court program after successfully attending an orientation.
4. Veterans Treatment Court provides access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing
6. A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance.
7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran is essential.
8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations.
10. Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veteran Treatment Court effectiveness.